EXAMINER'S REMARKS

Clarification of the specification was required regarding Dow Corning 93-500 and its curing process.

Amendment of the specification was required to reflect that the parent application serial #09/603,107 had evolved into USPN 6,451,142

The preamble of claim 18 required clarification in order to properly claim Applicants' invention.

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,367,006 to Hermansen et al., hereinafter Hermansen.

Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hermansen.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,977,226 to Dent, hereinafter Dent.

Claim 20 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REMARKS

Specification

Clarification of the specification was required regarding Dow Corning 93-500 and its curing process.

Dow Corning 93-500 is an addition cure polymer. Addition cure polymerization requires the presence of vinyl groups. No other molecules or substances are split off from the monomer during the polymerization process. The reaction is also called vinyl polymerization since it has vinyl groups. Thus, either terminology - addition-cure or vinyl polymerization - can be used to describe the chemical reaction. No amendment of the specification is believed to be required.

Amendment of the specification was required to reflect that the parent application serial #09/603,107 had evolved into USPN 6,451,142. The cross reference to related application(s) has been amended to reflect this fact.

Claim 18 preamble

The preamble of claim 18 required clarification in order to properly claim Applicants' invention.

The preamble of claim 18 was directed to a polymer, whereas the body of the claim recites a plurality of application quantities. The preamble of claim 18 has been amended and is now directed to "a collection of individual quantities of polymer".

Incorporating allowable subject matter into independent claim 18

Claim 20 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The limitations of claim 20 have been incorporated into independent claim 18. Claim 18, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Dependent claims 19, 21-22 are also believed to be allowable. Claim 20 has been deleted.

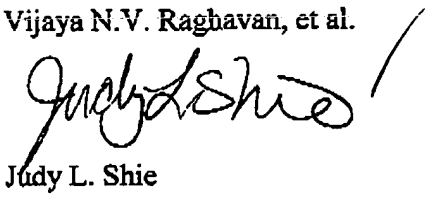
No new matter was introduced with this amendment. The rejections to claims 18-19 and 21-22 are believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

If there are any further questions or more discussion required, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' agent at the telephone number given below.

In view of the above, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. It is courteously requested that such allowance be granted at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,
Vijaya N.V. Raghavan, et al.



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REPLACEMENT CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This is a divisional of US Patent # 6,451,142 filed on 6/22/2000 and issued on 9/17/2002.

REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

18. (Amended) A collection of individual quantities of a polymer for use in outgassing-sensitive environments, comprising:

suitable addition polymerizing material selected to provide low total material loss (TML) and collected volatile condensable materials (CVCM) values, wherein the addition polymerizing material includes a silicone polymer which achieves curing by vinyl polymerization, said addition polymerizing material mixed by determining a quantity of said material for a single application, mixing a quantity of said selected material at stoichiometric proportions within 2% by weight in a batch of at least four times the quantity for the single application, said mixing resulting in combining component parts of said addition polymerizing material for polymerization, subdividing the batch into single application quantities, and placing a plurality of the application quantities in a chilled environment such that polymerization is retarded sufficiently for anticipated future use of the plurality of said application quantities as pre-mixed frozen (PMF) material; and

the mixed polymerizing material provided in individual ones of the application quantities for use in the outgassing-sensitive environments, thereby permitting cold storage of unused application quantities retained for future use while providing said individual ones of the application quantities for use as desired.